

STUBE Hessen-Wochenendseminar 0822

**„Sustainable Urban and Rural
Development“**

4th - 6th November 2022 in Darmstadt

- Seminar facilitator:** Mrs. Debora Schöbel, STUBE Hessen-Referentin
- Co-facilitator:** Mr. Martin Macharia Kamande (Kenya), Studienkolleg Frankfurt
- Target group:** Students from Africa, Asia and Latin America studying at universities in Hessen
- Learning goals:** Get to know the concepts of urbanity and rurality, examine sustainable urban development, reflect on the consequences of climate change in relation to countries of origin, develop solution-oriented thinking for adaptation strategies, understand reasons for migration, critically examine own behaviors regarding nutrition in the city, understand the meaning of sustainability, learn from examples of successful sustainable urban concepts
- Participants:** A total of 50 students registered for the seminar. 24 persons participated in the event, of which 10 were female and 14 male. 6 persons participated in a STUBE event for the first time. A total of 18 nations were represented at the event. From 4 African countries 6 persons, from 7 Asian countries 11 persons, from 2 MENA countries 2 persons, from 3 Latin American countries 3 persons and from 2 European countries 2 persons participated.

Event schedule

The seminar could take place as planned.

Friday, 4th November 2022

The seminar started with a welcome speech for the participating students by the facilitator Mrs. Debora Schöbel and co-facilitator Mr. Martin Macharia Kamande. Mrs. Schöbel and Mr. Kamande introduced themselves and presented the various offers of STUBE to the participants and the program for the weekend. With the students the co-facilitator developed different rules that need to be followed during the seminar, like respect, punctuality, no side-talking and no phones during the workshop times. The co-facilitator then assigned duties like taking pictures to some participants who volunteered. Mrs. Schöbel introduced the participants to the seminar topic. Afterwards, Mr. Kamande lead the participants through various familiarization games.

Saturday, 5th November 2022

The workshop started with a short energizer by the co-leader and the introduction of the speaker Mr. Franco Jauregui Fung. Mr. Jauregui Fung is a researcher on sustainable public transport systems in megacities in Asia and Latin America at German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS).

He started his workshop „**Sustainable Development and Urbanization**“ with an overview of the increasing importance of cities. A distinction is made between Megacities (+10million); Large cities (5-10million); Medium-sized cities (1-5million); Average cities (500,000-1million) and Urban areas (<500,000). Today, over 50% of the world's population lives in cities.

Looking ahead, urbanization will continue to increase and cities will grow spatially. Already by 2030 nine of the ten projected megacities are located in the Global South. The speaker explained the characteristics of (mega) cities: multiple functions and uses, multiple land use patterns, concentrations of jobs and services, multiple transport modes. They are often the centre for political movements, places for innovation and learning, multicultural hubs and places for exchange and internal migration. In spite of the positive aspects they have as places of encounter, cities have a decisive negative influence on climate change and are affected by it at the same time. Historically, cities were preferably built along water sources, such as rivers or coasts. Factors such as rising sea levels increase the risk of disasters. Cities in the Global South are particularly affected here. Mr. Jauregui Fung explained the challenges of cities today and in the future. Due to the increasing population, a space problem arises in many cities. Most cities continue to develop in width instead of height and are thus often spatially limited by geological factors such as mountains or water. Further, mobility and infrastructure are implemented separately from rural developments. Gaps can be closed through a comprehensive mobility approach. Higher incomes and poor transit lead to traffic congestion and air pollution. Higher incomes plus terrible transit leads to congestion. In urban areas, inequalities between residents increase. Social inequality leads to exclusion and segregation. The speaker explained that sustainable development seeks to meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of future generations. Through concerted efforts for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for all and the planet. In doing so, it is important to address the three core elements of economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Crucially, eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by promoting sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating opportunities for all and reducing inequalities, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems. In the context of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the speaker presented strategies for sustainable urban development. These are for example (1) compact, mixed-use that uses land efficiently and protects environment and food-producing; (2) environmental technologies for water, energy and waste management, closed loop systems. (3) high-quality public realm that expresses a public culture, community, and equity and good governance and (4) physical structure and urban design highly legible, permeable, robust, varied, rich, visually appropriate and made for human needs. In group work, the students dealt with the different perspectives and interests of various urban stakeholders. For the role play, each group was assigned a stakeholder from whose perspective they should argue for or against a planned urban project. In this context, the students learned that decisions are influenced by many perspectives and that in the rarest of cases all stakeholders are satisfied with the outcome. Afterwards, the small groups presented their projects and results. Mr. Jauregui Fung was available to the participants during and after the workshop for questions and exchange.

The afternoon workshop began with an energizer by the co-lead. Speaker Pramila Thapa followed up on what the participants had heard in the morning with her workshop, "**Impacts of Urban Growth on Farming Systems**". Ms. Thapa is a Doctoral Researcher, Social-Ecological Interactions in Agricultural Systems at the University of Kassel. At the beginning of the workshop, participants sorted themselves according to whether they grew up in an urban or rural area. As an introduction, she clarified the definition of urbanization as an increase in the proportion of the population living in urban areas. It is the process by which a large number of people becomes permanently concentrated in relatively small areas, forming cities. She then explained the dimensions of urbanization.

1. **Livelihood:** Less dependent on local production, Less direct linkage to natural resources through production activities such as farming, fishing, hunting, and forestry
2. **Lifestyle:** Changes in degree and mode of mobility, Changes in social identity,

behaviour, personal values, consumption choices, modes of action

3. **Connectivity:** Increase in number, diversity, distance, dynamism, and redundancy of connections of locality, its inhabitants, its economies, and ecosystems to distant places

Before urbanization, livelihoods were nature-based and characterized by agriculture, fishing, gathering forest products, etc. As a result of urbanization, the focus shifts to the service sector and industry. In cities, there is increased demand for food while there is less space and capacity for food production. Together, the students discussed the extent to which food security can be established. This exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and preferences and contributes to an active and healthy life. In a group session, participants explored the impact of urbanization on food systems. Here, it became apparent that poorly balanced diets can exacerbate disease. Existing inequalities are reinforced by the higher prices of healthy foods. Ms. Thapa then explained the positive impact on agricultural systems. From a socio-economic perspective, there are increased opportunities for (peri)urban agriculture, greater diversity of food suppliers, improved supply of agricultural inputs, improved access to markets and credit, improved information, increased demand for food (and other agricultural products), job creation (within, outside, and beyond agriculture). This is countered by lack of human resources, decrease in public funding for infrastructure, services and subsidies, demographic instability, erosion of cultural identity, and increase in inequality and access to land. The workshop ended with a lively discussion session and participants took the opportunity to ask questions. The STUBE speaker thanked everyone for the interesting and active day.

Sunday, 6th November 2022

After an energizer, the workshop on "**Climate change, land degradation and migration: Case Studies of Mali and Senegal**" began. The speaker, PD Dr. Diana Hummel, works at the Institute for Social-Ecological Research Ltd. (ISOE) in Frankfurt am Main and has conducted research in the two countries for many years. She started with an introduction to the topic and presented her research. Due to the debate about migration as adaptation strategy to climate change. There is an increasing interest in interactions between climate change, environment and migration. The popular discourse is about the rising numbers of „environmental migrants“ or „climate refugees“ But there is a lack of reliable estimates of number of people moving as result of climate & environmental change. Die Relevance of environmental factors & climate in migration decisions is highly debated. The question is if migration as „option to avoid“, „adaptive/coping strategy“ or „agency“?

In the scientific debate it is assumed that climate change & environmental stress can contribute to migration, but are usually not the root causes of migration. There is no deterministic relationship between environmental degradation and migration. Accordingly multi-causality and complex interactions between social, economic and ecological factors require a differentiated view. Case studies offer an opportunity to do this. Ms. Hummel presented her scientific research approach and methods to the students. In an interdisciplinary research project, the motives for migration movements were to be researched. It turned out that the main reasons for migration in the research areas are job search, money, food security and family reasons. The importance of climate and environmental changes increases the greater the dependence on agriculture. Migration is seen as an important strategy to compensate for environmental changes and negative impacts on food security, diversify income and minimize risks. It is often a proactive decision that serves more than one purpose.

In a first group work the students collected their knowledge about climate change,

environmental degradation and migration in their home country. Together they discussed how their scientific disciplines can contribute to the nexus climate change and migration.

After the break, the participants worked in a group on adaptation strategies. They looked at how both urban and rural areas are affected by migration. Furthermore, they discussed what influence science and politics can have on the processes. In their home countries, the consequences of climate change are already clearly noticeable in some cases. For example, Indonesia is relocating its capital Jakarta due to overpopulation and drowning. In a concluding Q&A session, Ms. Hummel answered further questions about her research. Mrs. Schöbel thanked the presenter.

At the end of the seminar, the participants were given the opportunity to evaluate the workshops. Ms. Schöbel handed out the evaluation forms. The seminar ended with the handover of the certificates of participation and a joint lunch.

Applied Methodology

Various icebreaker games, group work, PowerPoint presentations, videos, music and group discussions were used.

Impressions of the seminar

- It was interesting for me.
- I really liked the team work at our conferences.
- Content, experience from others
- I liked that we are from different places around the world and can learn a lot from each other. I will take home the whole experience. The people, the feelings, the knowledge.
- Sustainable management of urban cities.
- Healthy food consumer.
- Strengthening local areas (villages, land).
- Using more renewable resources for less CO².
- Interesting content, cool speakers, good organization.
- I liked the positive energy of leader and co leader and I hope they will continue their great job.
- Sweet memories.
- Thank you Debora and Martin for organizing this. You guys did great. You did not have to make apologies for the 2nd speaker about the rush.
- It was an awesome platform to socialize and learn from people with different backgrounds and perspective.
- New approach to solving migration problems.
- The content of the presentations was rich. I became more aware about the importance of sustainable development.
- Franco's topic was most interesting for me.
- I have learned a few new terms which I would like to go in detail and know more about as my takeback.
- What I liked is that everyone here was so accommodating and social.
- The friends and memories I made here, the new experiences, everything was so memorable.
- Met new people I connected with, feel inspired to participate and refreshed to go back studying.
- The last seminar, so many new information, the hope of the power for change.
- What I will take home, is the friendships.
- I like know that each of us can contribute in mitigating or trying to find solution for the climate change and migration problem.

- Thank you for sparing dinner for us who were late. It is very thoughtful.
- I liked the last session the most (Workshop on migration and climate)
- I have learned about an integrated development – approach for pre-urban and rural development.
- I will remember all that was taught.
- The fact that migrants also exist not only for economic reasons but also because of climate change.
- The movement and interactions among us brought about diverse information which was very educative.
- Environmental migration due to climate change. From here I know how to deal with it by using research / science, economics, politics and policy.

Wiesbaden, 14.12.2022

Debora Schöbel
STUBE Hessen Facilitator